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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1953

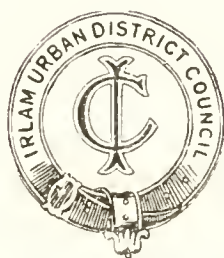


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IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillors: J. DUNN, *Chairman*
J. P. ENNIS, J.P., C.C., *Chairman of the Council*
R. J. JAMES, J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Council*
C. A. BORRINO
A. DOWSON
S. DUNN
D. HASLAM
J. McLEAN, J.P.
J. SANDERSON
J. P. STEWART
J. WINSKILL
E. WRIGHT, J.P.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

A. V. STOCKS,

M.A., B.CH (CANTAB.), M.B., CH. B., D.P.H. (VICT.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

*† L. HALL, M.R.SAN.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H. DIXON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

* *Certified Meat and Food Inspector*

† *Certified Smoke Inspector*

Clerk:

MISS M. G. TOWNSEND

Junior Clerk/Typist:

MISS B. SWANN

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1 GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Statute Acres)	4,717
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, June, 1953)	14,890
Number of Inhabited Houses (per Rate Book)	4,541
Rateable value at 31st December, 1953	£93,697
Sum represented by a penny rate	£377
Total rates in the £	£1 2s. 6d.

2 VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births: Legitimate	118	96	214
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Stillbirths	2	2	4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population			18
Birth rate per 1,000 population			14.7*

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths	81	84	165
Death rate per 1,000 population			11.1*
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births			Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age			8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			37
Deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			28

*Adjusted: Live birth rate (comparability factor 0.97)=14.3 per 1,000
 Death rate (comparability factor 1.20)=13.3 per 1,000.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1953

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Irlam Urban District Council*

I beg to submit to you my report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1953, as made to the Minister of Health in accordance with his circular of 12th January, 1954, and the report is drawn up according to the directions contained therein.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General in June, 1953, was 14,890.

The number of births during the year was 214, 33 more than in the previous year; the live birth rate was 14.7 per 1,000 of the population compared with 12.7 in 1952.

The deaths numbered 165 or 8 more than in the previous year; the crude death rate was 11.1 per 1,000 of the population which was somewhat higher than in the year previous when it was 10.5. There were 4 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 1 in the previous year and 4 in 1951. Deaths from other forms of respiratory disease rose from 18 to 21. There were 28 deaths from cancer, this being one less than in the previous year. Deaths of children under one year of age numbered eight which was one more than in the previous year; the infant mortality rate remained at 37 per 1,000 live births.

There were many fewer notifications of infectious disease than in 1952, the reduction being from 369 to 255 of which 171 were cases of whooping cough.

I would like to thank Mr L. Hall and his staff for their work in the department throughout the year and to express my appreciation of the support given to me by the Members of the Health Committee and by Officials of the Council.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. V. STOCKS,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
IRLAM
June, 1954

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL

The county district of Irlam in Lancashire is roughly square in formation, with sides over three and a half miles long. The district boundaries on the North mesh with those of Tyldesley, Worsley and Leigh, on the South with the Manchester Ship Canal, on the East with Eccles and on the West with the banks of the River Glaze. The residents are thus provided with an area quasi-rural in character, which makes a relieving contrast to the industrial nature of the district on its southern borders.

A variety of industries is carried on in the district. The following is a brief summary:

Steel and iron works, soap works, margarine and lard manufacturing, coal tips, tar works, basket works, general engineering, and market gardening.

No conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health were noted during the year.

POPULATION

The resident population of Irlam estimated by the Registrar General in mid 1953, was 14,890.

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 54.

In addition to the resident population large numbers from outside the district journey daily to and from the various works in the district.

BIRTHS

Boys: 121 Girls: 98 Total: 219

The total number of births belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 219. This gave a birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000 of the population, as against 12.7 for the previous year.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population for the whole of England and Wales for 1953 was 15.5.

STILLBIRTHS

The number of registered stillbirths was 4, giving a rate per 1,000 total births of 18. The average for the years 1948-1952 was 35 per 1,000 total births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths from puerperal causes occurred during 1953. There have been no deaths as a result of childbirth in the district since 1944.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 8 deaths of infants under one year of age, 5 of which occurred within the first four weeks of life. The infant mortality rate was 37 per 1,000 live births, the same as in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 26.8.

The average infant mortality rate for the district for the years 1948—1952 was 35 per 1,000 live births.

The following table gives the number of infant deaths and the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for this district during the past eight years:

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. of deaths	12	14	11	8	8	6	7	8
Infant mortality rate	47	48	42	31	33	32	37	37

DEATHS

Males: 81 Females: 84 Total: 165

The total number of deaths belonging to the district after the necessary adjustments for inward and outward transfers was 165. This gave a death rate of 11.1 per 1,000 of the population compared with 10.5 in 1952.

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000 of the total population.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND INQUESTS

During the year there were 33 deaths (19 males, 14 females) in which the causes of death were certified after post mortem examination and/or coroners inquests.

There were 16 inquests held and the coroner's verdict was as follows:

Accidental death	....	....	....	....	7
Suicide	....	....	....	....	2
Misadventure	....	....	....	....	3
Natural causes	....	....	....	....	4

CANCER

There were 28 deaths from this cause, 12 males and 16 females giving a mortality rate of 1.88 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 29 deaths in 1952, when the rate was 1.94 per 1,000.

CLASSIFIED DEATHS FROM CANCER

Localisation	1950	1951	1952	1953
Pharynx	—	1	1	—
Oesophagus	2	—	—	2
Stomach	8	11	1	5
Respiratory Organs	7	5	8	4
Pancreas	1	—	2	—
Liver	1	—	—	—
Bladder	—	2	1	1
Intestinal Tract	5	8	5	4
Generative Organs	3	2	4	—
Breast	2	2	3	7
Other or Unspecified Organs	2	8	4	5
Totals	31	39	29	28
Deaths from all causes	164	169	157	165

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Twenty-five deaths were attributed to diseases of the respiratory organs (including tuberculosis) giving a death rate of 1.67 per 1,000 of the population. This was an increase on the previous year when the death rate was 1.27 per 1,000.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease are given in the following table:

Age Period Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	*3	—	—	—	*2	—	—	—
65-75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	4	—	—	3	1	—	—
	12		—		4		—	

*Includes one notified on death return after post mortem examination.

Particulars of new cases and of deaths from Tuberculosis during the past five years are given in the following table:

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1949	10	2	3	—
1950	13	—	1	—
1951	8	5	4	1
1952	16	1	1	—
1953	12	—	4	—

Twenty cases received sanatorium treatment during the year. The death rate from tuberculosis was 0.27 per 1,000 of the population compared with 0.07 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The notification of tuberculosis was satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any action regarding cases of neglect or refusal to notify.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 255, a reduction of 114 on 1952. Cases of measles numbered 14 against 307 in the previous year; on the other hand whooping cough was much more prevalent there being 171 cases notified against 13 in 1952. The number of cases of scarlet fever was 25, the same as in the previous year.

Five deaths occurred from infectious disease, of which 4 were from tuberculosis (pulmonary). No deaths occurred from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria, or poliomyelitis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 161 children were immunised for the first time; of these 130 were under five years of age.

The fall in diphtheria cases and in deaths from the disease in the country generally has been so dramatic in recent years that there is a danger that parents may consider that immunisation is no longer vitally necessary. In some respects, however, it is more important than ever before. When diphtheria was prevalent, the majority of children who did not contract the disease, acquired a natural immunity to it. This was through repeated small doses of infection insufficient to cause the disease but sufficient to create an immunity to it. Under the conditions that now exist, children are more susceptible than before because of this lack of natural immunity and if large numbers of them were left unimmunised the introduction of diphtheria into the community might cause a rapid and dangerous spread of the disease.

Parents who desire to have their children immunised against diphtheria may choose between having this done by the family doctor or having it done at the clinic. Treatment is free and where the family doctor carries it out a reimbursement is made by the County Council on the basis of record cards submitted by him. Infants should be immunised during the first year, preferably about the 8th or 9th month. The protection thus afforded tends to fade in a few years and a reinforcement injection should be given about the time when the children commence school life.

During 1953, 246 children received these reinforcing injections which can be given either by the family practitioners or arranged through the school clinic.

VACCINATION

During the year 93 successful primary vaccinations against smallpox were carried out and 37 re-vaccinations.

Infant vaccination gives a measure of protection to the individual for many years; should the disease be contracted it is generally in a modified form and a fatal issue is unlikely. Another reason for having infants vaccinated is that should vaccination subsequently become necessary during an epidemic on account of coming into contact with a case of smallpox or because of entry into one of the services, the reaction to vaccination tends to be more severe if the patient has never been previously vaccinated.

GENERAL PROVISION OF OTHER HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

I SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare*

There are weekly sessions at Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, and at the Pensioners Hall, Princes Park, Irlam. A weekly antenatal clinic is held at Longfield Lodge, and a consultant antenatal clinic once a month.

Health visiting is carried out by two health visitors in the district.

(b) *School Clinic.*

This is at Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, and provides a weekly minor ailments session and orthopaedic, ophthalmic, and dental treatment by appointment.

(c) *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

Regular sessions are held at Longfield Lodge.

(d) *Home Nursing.*

There are two district nurses resident in the area whose services are available on request from the Medical Practitioner in attendance on the patient.

(e) *Midwifery.*

Two midwives reside in the district and are available for domiciliary confinements and also for attendance on mothers who have been confined in hospital and discharged before the fourteenth day.

(f) *Home Help Service.*

Particulars of this and all other services administered by the County Council, may be obtained from the Divisional Health Office, 33 Green Lane, Patricroft.

(g) *Day Nursery.*

There is a day nursery with accommodation for 46 children in Fiddlers Lane, Irlam.

(h) *Ambulance Service.*

The ambulance vehicles and personnel are stationed on the Fire Station premises in Irlam. There is also a station at Patricroft.

2 HOSPITAL SERVICES.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the Urban District. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Ladywell Infectious Diseases Hospital. Accidents, emergencies, and other cases requiring hospital treatment are treated at hospitals in Davyhulme, Eccles, Salford or Manchester.

BYELAWS

Byelaws with respect to the following matters have been made by the Council and are in operation from the dates shown:

Nuisances	....	....	....	....	6th Sept., 1922
Parks and Pleasure Grounds			....	....	5th April, 1927
Smoke Abatement	....	....	....	....	1st Nov., 1949
Handling, wrapping, etc., of food	....		....	....	16th April, 1950
Building Byelaws	....	....	....	....	14th Nov., 1953

TABLE I
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of death for the Year 1953. Classified under the Headings of the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective & Parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Cancer	12	16	28
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vas. lesions of nervous system	8	14	22
Heart Disease	22	30	52
Other circulatory diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Bronchitis	9	3	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	5	3	8
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	81	84	165

TABLE II

IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT for 1953 and Previous Years

YEAR	Population of Middle Each Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
										Total		Neo-natal	
		No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1953	14,890	219	*14.7	165	*11.1	4	18	Nil	Nil	8	37	5	23
1952	14,950	190	12.7	157	10.5	8	40	Nil	Nil	7	37	4	21
1951	15,030	187	12.4	169	11.2	5	26	Nil	Nil	6	32	4	21
1950	15,140	245	16.2	164	10.8	7	28	Nil	Nil	8	33	6	24
1949	15,120	256	16.9	152	10.1	11	41	Nil	Nil	8	31	-	-
1948	15,020	260	17.3	135	8.9	11	40	Nil	Nil	11	42	-	-
Average Five Years 1948-1952	-	-	15.1	-	10.3	-	35	-	Nil	-	35	-	-

* Adjusted: Live birth rate (comparability factor, 0.97) = 14.3 per 1,000
 Death rate (comparability factor, 1.20) = 13.3 per 1,000

TABLE III
IRLAM URBAN DISTRICT
Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1953, other than Tuberculosis

Disease	Total No. cases	At Ages—Years							Ward Distribution				Cases Remov. to Hosp.	Total Deaths
		0–	1–	3–	5–	10–	15–	25–	45–	Over 65	Irlam Cen.	Cadis. Cen.	Cadis.	
Smallpox	25	–	1	6	15	2	1	–	–	–	8	5	4	–
Scarlet Fever	14	2	2	5	5	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	1	–
Diphtheria	171	22	21	38	86	3	–	1	–	–	30	47	68	1
Measles	41	–	2	1	8	–	–	5	19	6	17	5	7	–
Whooping Cough														3
Pneumonia														
Ac. Poliomyelitis														
Dysentery	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	1	2	1	–
Erysipelas														
Totals	255	24	26	50	114	5	1	7	21	7	59	64	80	2
														3

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1953

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Committee*

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Since the last annual report much time and energy has been spent in an effort to raise the general standard in the environmental health field. When conditions are bad the way of improvement is usually clear and spectacular but a stage is reached when standards do generally comply with all the necessary requirements. Such was the state of affairs at the end of 1952. The aim for 1953 was not only to maintain a satisfactory standard but to improve on it and I am sure that the results obtained, mainly by persuasion and perseverance have been well worth the effort.

During the past few years the main emphasis was on food and food premises. This year, however, no campaigns were embarked upon. It was felt that routine inspections and quiet persuasive talks with the individuals concerned would be more profitable.

The main concentration during the year was made on general housing repairs and atmospheric pollution and it is pleasing to report good progress in both fields. Seventy-four statutory notices were served in 1953 for housing repairs as against 29 in 1952. The main reason for the increase is that some owners have instructed their agents not to do repairs until a statutory notice has been served. In spite of the increase in the number of notices served the relationship between the owners and the department has been very good. Two hundred and thirty-six interviews took place between owners or their representatives and your sanitary inspectors during the year. This is an increase of over a 100 on the previous year.

The fight for a cleaner atmosphere, particularly in the Cadishead Central Ward, was the most difficult task undertaken during 1953 and it was not until the very end of the year that any real improvement was noticed.

During the year talks and addresses have been given on the work of the Public Health Department to various organisations throughout the district. This, however, only touches the fringe of the problem of educating the man in the street in matters relating to local government generally. It is true to say that the amount of work done in the course of a year and the improvements effected through the instrumentality of the health department are of a much greater extent than is usually realised by the general public.

The public cleansing service has continued to work smoothly and efficiently. A weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the year. The tip at the rear of Victory Road, Cadishead, was completed towards the latter end of the year and the new tip at Lords Street brought into operation. At one period the road to the Lords Street tip was rendered impassable owing to the extension of the carriage-way and for a period of ten weeks the refuse was disposed of by filling in "The Dell" in Princes Park. This operation was carried out without any nuisance or complaint. The amount of salvage collected was most encouraging. The average monthly collection of waste paper was raised from 15 tons in 1952 to 17 tons in 1953. The total of 205 tons of paper for the year is the highest recorded for the district.

In conclusion, I have again to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, to Dr. Stocks, to all members of the staff and employees for their help and support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE HALL

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

OFFICE ROUTINE

During the year the clerical work in the department was heavier than in previous years owing to the increased activities in all sections, particularly with regard to housing repairs and public cleansing.

A high standard of efficiency was maintained throughout the period. At the end of the year all records were up to date.

FOOD INSPECTION

The whole of the meat supplied to the district comes from Manchester. The only animals slaughtered within the district for human consumption are cottagers pigs which are slaughtered under licenses issued by the Ministry of Food. Seven pigs were killed and inspected during the year and all were found to be free from disease. The numbers of pigs reared by cottagers for their own consumption has steadily diminished since 1949. In that year 105 were killed as against the seven in 1953. The obvious reason for this decrease is the fact that fresh meat is more plentiful in the butchers shops. As a consequence of this improved position, over 40% more visits were made to these premises for the purpose of food inspection. The quantity of fresh meat condemned during the year was 172 lbs. When this is compared with the amount of meat sold annually throughout the district, it speaks very highly of the standard of meat inspection carried out by our colleagues at the Manchester Abattoir. At this stage I would like to pay tribute to the butchers in the district for their willing co-operation. It is true to say that they are as anxious as we are that the meat supplied to the general public is good, wholesome and free from disease. Thus a threefold check is made before sale to the public. First the meat is inspected at the abattoir at the time of slaughter, secondly by your own inspectors who carry out routine inspections in the butchers shops and thirdly by the butchers who readily inform the Health Department if there is anything of which they are at all doubtful.

Again the relationship between the department and the trade has been most cordial and, whilst it would be untrue to say that we always see "eye to eye" on all matters, the atmosphere of trust and helpfulness has prevailed throughout the year. It is pleasing to report that in no case was it found necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

The following table shows the amount of foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption:

	lbs.	Tins	Pkts.	Jars	No.
Luncheon Meat		84			
Cooked Ham	145				
Gammon	50½				
Butchers Meat	172				
Jellied Veal	62				
Ham and Veal		2			
Shoulder Ham		21			
Ox Tongue	12				
Stewed Steak		15			
Camp Pic		48			
Spiced Beef		8			
Jellied Pork	6				
Corned Beef		1			
Fish (Raw)	68				
Tinned Fruit		203			
Tinned Vegetables		2			
Tinned Tomatoes		8			
Tinned Milk		6			
Cereals			5		
Dried Fruit	30				
Frozen Eggs	48				
Cheese			44		
Mayonnaise				1	
Meat or Fish Paste				11	
Ground Rice	40				
Cake or Bun Flour			6		
Easter Eggs					90

All condemned foodstuffs were disposed of with the household refuse on the controlled tip.

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises, by type of business, in district at end of year

Type of Business	Number
Butchers	15
Confectioners (including bakehouses)	15
Cooked Meats	1
Fish (Raw)	2
Fried Fish	14
Greengrocery	19
Grocery	46
Snack bars (one mobile) and Cafes	6
Factory canteens	9
Others (including two food factories)	7

Number of Food Premises, by type of business, registered under section fourteen of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Number</i>
Butchers	5
Confectioners	4
Grocery	2

All food premises were visited at least twice during the year. In all 401 inspections were made for this purpose. The standard of the food premises in the district can safely be classed as reasonably satisfactory. All premises comply with the requirements of section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. There is, however, a tendency, which must also be noticed by the general public for the shops dealing in foodstuffs to be gradually dividing into two distinct groups—those who are making every effort to improve and modernise their premises and those who are only maintaining a reasonable standard because they are compelled to do so and begrudge every penny they are made to spend on essential work and decoration, etc. With the first group we find a vast improvement in hygienic conditions and a general pride in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness whilst with the latter group, I am quite sure that if, for any reason, regular routine inspections were neglected they would rapidly deteriorate and go back to the old unsatisfactory standards. It is true, however, that the worst of this group are gradually working themselves out of business, not by any action of the department but by the customers who are, in spite of everything which is said to the contrary, becoming clean food conscious. In fact this is so much so that it is possible to forecast with reasonable accuracy the shops which are likely to change hands or go out of business.

The main improvements carried out during the year were walls tiled or covered with other impervious material, glass or perspex counter show cases for unpacked foods, new refrigerators installed and various other fittings.

The following table shows the details of defects for which it was necessary to serve informal notices during the year:

Defect	Out-standing 31.12.52	Found during 1953			Total found 1953	Out-standing 31.12.53
		Shops Cafes etc.	Works Can- teens	Bake- hou- ses		
Cleanliness	11	12	6	2	20	3
Supply of hot water	4	6	—	—	6	2
Soap & Towels	3	—	—	—	—	—
Decorating	10	10	2	2	14	4
Structural defects	4	8	1	—	9	6
Bins	1	7	—	—	7	1
Defective W.C.	1	—	—	—	—	—
Broken Crockery	1	—	—	—	—	—
Drainage	2	3	—	—	3	—
Accumulations	1	4	—	—	4	1
Insufficient pro- tection of food	6	7	—	—	7	5
Miscellaneous	—	2	—	—	2	1
Totals	44	59	9	4	72	23

FOOD AND DRUGS

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following details of samples taken under the provisions of section 68 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

A total of 102 samples was obtained; of these 75 were of milk and the 27 others comprised:

2 liquid paraffin	1 pudding mixture
2 custard powder	1 sponge cake and sponge
1 cake flour sweetened, coconut flavoured	pudding mixture unsweet- ened
3 sponge cake and sponge pudding mixture, sweetened	2 flour confectionery
3 tea	1 cake (parkin)
1 cream, canned	2 sauce
2 syrup of figs	1 semolina
1 tomato ketchup	1 swiss roll
	1 meat pie
	2 cake flour unsweetened

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 flour cake sweetened	infested with live acari	stock surrendered
1 tomato ketchup	Added sugar 13 per cent., flour 5 per cent. Therefore "flour" should follow "sugar" in list of ingredients.	Packers communicated with

ICE-CREAM

During the year one of the manufacturers of ice-cream retired from business and his successor has not continued with this section of the business.

All premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream were kept under strict observation, particularly during the summer months. Fifty-one visits were made in this connection. In accordance with the Ice-Cream Regulations, the temperature of the ice-cream was constantly checked not only in the shops but also on the vehicles coming in from other districts. In all cases the regulations and codes of practice were reasonably complied with.

The number of premises on the register is:

Manufacturers — Pasteurising	1
Cold Mix	1
Retailers	33

Twelve samples of ice-cream and seven samples of ice-lollies were taken during the year with the following results:

ICE CREAM

METHYLENE BLUE

No. of samples	Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
12	6	4	1	1

ICE LOLLIES

BACTERIOLOGICAL		
No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
7	6	1

MILK AND DAIRIES

At the end of the year almost all milk retailed within the district was either pasteurised, sterilised, or tuberculin tested. At first sight this may appear to have relieved the department of a very important duty, that of ensuring that the milk supplied in this district is safe and wholesome. It is true to say that in some respect

our minds are easier, especially when thinking in terms of tubercle bacilli, but when it is considered in terms of actual work involved there is very little change. The same number of samples have to be taken because I am sure that the need for sampling the raw milk prior to pasteurisation is still a most important factor in safe milk production. Apart from the milk itself we still have "age old" problems of premises, dirty containers, and bottles. Therefore, I have again to report that the work of ensuring a safe and wholesome milk supply has proceeded throughout the year with undiminished fervour.

The following table gives details of samples of milk sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester:

	No. Samples	No. Satisfac- tory	No. Unsatis- factory	No. Void
Biological (Tuberculosis)	48	48	—	—
Methylene Blue	68	59	6	3
Phosphatase Test	28	28	—	—
Turbidity Test	9	9	—	—
	<u>153</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

It is pleasing to note that for the second year in succession all samples taken for biological examination were returned as being free from tubercle bacilli.

No. of registered distributors operating from:

(a)	Dairies in the district	....	....	3
(b)	Shops in the district other than dairies	....	....	22
(c)	Premises outside the district	....	....	7

The following licences were issued during the year:

Tuberculin Tested	....	Dealers	....	3
		Supplementary	....	3
Accredited	....	Dealers	....	1
Pasteurised	....	Dealers	....	4
		Supplementary	....	3
Sterilised	....	Dealers	....	25
		Supplementary	....	3

After being asked to carry out various improvements one of the three dairymen ceased to bottle his own milk and now purchases all his supply ready bottled from one of the large wholesale dairies in Manchester.

HOUSING

By and large the condition of the houses in the district may be considered reasonably satisfactory. There are no back to back houses or congested areas. There are, however, a number of houses in various parts of the district which are beyond the normal repair stage and are at present only surviving because of the difficulty in providing alternative accommodation for the occupier. In accordance with the general policy set out in circular 61/47 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government no houses were condemned during the year. In fact houses which would normally have been classed as suitable only for demolition have been repaired and pressed into service. Three houses were closed during the year, two by voluntary agreement and one by action under the Act. Two of these houses were later reconditioned and reoccupied. Eleven dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made prior to 1953 are still standing, seven of which were occupied.

OVERCROWDING

Four new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year in addition to the nine cases outstanding at the end of 1952. Three cases were relieved leaving a total of ten cases involving 90 persons still to be dealt with.

The actual overcrowding has been based on the permitted number for the house and not on rooms occupied by sub-tenants.

COMPLAINTS

274 complaints were received and investigated during the year. The following is a summary of the complaints:

Accumulations	7
Animals so kept	1
Atmospheric pollution	6
Burst water pipes	5
Defective paths	9
Gypsies	1
Houses dirty or verminous (including ants, cock- roaches, etc.)	42
Housing defects	106
Obstructed drains	38
Overcrowding	6
Rats and mice	37
Miscellaneous	16

The total number of visits made in connection with complaints received (including revisits) was 2,450.

The above, whilst officially known as complaints, are in effect a record of the number of times ratepayers of the district have called upon the Public Health Department for assistance under the various headings. The requests mainly deal with personal matters relating to things about the home or living conditions generally. There has again been an increase in the total number of complaints over the previous years. The items which are mainly responsible for the increase over last year are dirty and verminous houses which rose from 14 to 42, rats and mice 13 to 37, and choked drains 26 to 38. The only item on which any explanation can be given is the increased complaints regarding rats and mice. This is due to the Council's decision not to make a charge for treatments in domestic premises. The treatments involved were mainly for mice infestation.

The number of complaints for housing defects was almost the same as in the previous year. The work involved on this item of housing defects is becoming more difficult and more time is having to be devoted to this matter each year. The increase in the work involved on housing repairs, including drainage etc., can be seen by the following comparison with previous years.

Year	Complaints	Revisits	Interviews with owners, etc.	Total
1949	111	382	33	526
1950	89	437	72	598
1951	100	627	42	769
1952	147	1007	129	1283
1953	158	1629	236	2023

It will be noted that in 1953 an average of 13 visits had to be made for each complaint. There appears to be two main factors responsible for this increase. Firstly, the owners are adopting a waiting policy of leaving the work until threatened with court proceedings. There is also an air of expectancy and owners are inclined to leave things as they are until the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill are made known. Secondly there is a greater need for regular inspections whilst work is in progress. The call for cheap jobs, would, if so allowed, foster shoddy and unsatisfactory workmanship.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE

This section is closely linked with the previous one headed complaints. It is, in the main, the sequel to the complaints and gives in detail the work involved.

177 preliminary and 74 statutory notices were served during the year. The following statement gives details of the work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

HOUSING

Rising dampness remedied	21
House walls repaired (pointing, etc.)	77
Ceilings and walls replastered	46
Roofs repaired	47
Chimneys (flashings, etc.) repaired	24
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	28
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	14
Floors repaired or relaid (timber)	37
Floors repaired or relaid (solid)	5
Sub-floor spaces drained	3
Sub-floor ventilation provided	2
Skirting boards repaired	11
Dresser Lights renewed or repaired	14
Window frames and sash cords repaired or renewed	55
Window sills repaired	6
Doors repaired	14
Stairs repaired	2
Handrails to stairs provided	1
Firegrates repaired or renewed	23
Paths repaired or relaid	56
Yard surfaces relaid	2
Yard walls repaired	6
Bursts repaired	4
Miscellaneous	9

DRAINAGE

Choked drains and public sewers cleansed	30
Drains repaired or reconstructed	11
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	6

SANITARY FITTINGS AND AMENITIES

Sinks provided	3
Sink waste pipes repaired	11
Lavatory basins fixed	1
Wash boilers renewed	3
Cisterns repaired	11
Water Closet compartments repaired and cleansed	17
New water closet pedestals fixed	6
Water closet seats provided	3

MISCELLANEOUS

Accumulations removed	6
Animals (cleansed, etc.)	2
Dirty houses cleansed	3
Water courses cleansed	2

It will be noted that the number of notices served both preliminary and statutory is far in excess of any previous year and also that the number of defects remedied is the highest recorded.

It is pleasing to report that the nuisance arising from the unauthorised use of the land at Square Fold, Cadishead, by gypsies and travelling hawkers has now been eliminated. The owners have at last been prevailed upon to erect posts along the Green Lane boundary of the land, thus denying access to unauthorised persons.

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of nine properties in the Glazebury Moss area, which are supplied by the Warrington Corporation, the whole of the Urban District is served by the mains of Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department. The supply is constant and all premises are supplied direct from the mains.

WATER COURSES

The watercourses in the district have been kept under observation throughout the year. With the exception of sections of Platts Brook the condition of the watercourses may be classed as reasonably satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from a few isolated houses on the moss area, all properties are connected to the sewers. The sewage is received and dealt with at the Council's sewage works situated at Lords Street, Cadishead, where it is treated by the Activated Sludge method prior to discharge into the River Glaze.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The following approximate particulars are given of conveniences in the district at the end of 1953:

No. of fresh water closets	....	....	5374
No. of waste water closets	....	...	1
No. of pail closets	....	....	53
No. of privy middens	....	....	2

The majority of the pail closets are situated on the moss area and are attended to by the occupiers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The topic of atmospheric pollution was centred almost entirely on the dust emission from the new Tar Macadam Plant at the works of the Lancashire Steel Corporation. The whole of the year was just one concentrated effort by ourselves and the technical staff at the works to eliminate the source of nuisance. Point after point throughout the whole process was dealt with and it was only

in the last few days of the year that the whole of the various sections of the plant were brought under control. Most of the work done was of a permanent nature, but, in order to abate the nuisance within reasonable time, certain temporary works had to be put into operation. I would like to pay tribute to the technical staff at the works for their willingness to co-operate and to say that no request was made in vain. There were time lags between work on the various sections but these were due to the fact that many of the alterations involved the making of additional plant. As to the result of our labours throughout the year, that is a matter the future will decide but I am confident that a good job of work has been done.

Turning now to pollution by smoke, the position is very little different from last year. The smoke from domestic chimneys is still the worst enemy we have in the district. A few new type fireplaces have been installed but apart from that there is no progress to report. The people who complain very bitterly about industrial smoke think nothing of throwing "slaek" on their open fires and so the only solution appears to be in the education of the public in these matters or the formation of smokeless zones.

Thirty-five smoke observations were taken during the year and 103 visits were made to industrial premises for the purpose of abatement of atmospheric pollution. On four occasions recordings of over two minutes black smoke were registered. Two firms were involved and notices were served on the managements under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION CARRINGTON/PARTINGTON AREA

With the coming into operation of the new Carrington Power Station in October, 1953, the first phase of the investigation started in 1948 was completed. The recordings taken during that period now stand as a permanent record of the extent of the pollution prior to the opening of the power station. It is too early at this stage to draw any comparisons but as time goes on and more readings are available the true picture will be revealed.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

All shops in the district were visited at least twice during the year, 695 visits being made for this purpose. There are 248 shops in the district, 124 in Cadishead and 124 in Irlam.

The provisions of the Act were generally found to be satisfactorily complied with. The high standard of the majority of shops, particularly those dealing in foodstuffs, can, in my opinion, be attributed to the regular routine inspections which were made throughout the year.

LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

Licensed premises and clubs, including those having catering licences were visited during the year. Apart from minor details there was no cause for complaint, the standard of cleanliness being very satisfactory. Nine visits were made in this connection.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was:

Mechanical factories	....	....	....	36
Non-mechanical factories	....	....	....	3
Building works, etc.	....	....	....	3

A total of 109 inspections were made in connection with the administration of this Act and the following table gives details of contraventions noted:

	Out- stand- ing 31.12.52	Found during 1953		Total Found 1953	Out- stand- ing 31.12.53
		Sanitary Accom- moda- tion	Other		
Absence doors and/or locks	5	5	—	5	5
Absence intervening ventilated space	17	1	—	1	16
Accumulations and Drainage	1	1	1	2	—
Decorating required	4	6	1	7	3
Defective fittings	4	2	—	2	2
Factory Register not up to date	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	2	—	—	—	—
Inadequate lighting	—	1	—	1	1
Lack of cleanliness	11	3	—	3	2
Structural repairs	3	2	—	2	—
Notices not displayed	—	2	—	2	—
Ventilation to be provided	1	1	—	1	—
Totals	49	24	2	26	29

The local authority is responsible for the provisions relating to the sanitary conveniences at all factories. These provisions are contained in the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, and prescribe the number of sanitary conveniences required and lay down rules regarding the siting and arrangement of same. In non-mechanical factories the local authority is also responsible for the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors. During the year four statutory notices were served.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTIONS

59 visits were made to households in connection with cases of infectious disease.

The following are details of disinfections carried out by or on behalf of the department.

Number of rooms fumigated	29
Number of library books disinfected	36

The rooms are fumigated with Formaldehyde after the patient has been removed to hospital, or if nursed at home, when the patient is certified free from infection. The library books are also fumigated with Formaldehyde prior to returning to general use.

When cases of infectious disease occur supplies of disinfectant are issued free if applied for by the householder.

MORTUARY

The mortuary which is situated at the rear of the Council Offices is maintained by the department. As a general routine it is cleansed weekly and after each use. The mortuary attendant is also responsible for maintaining supplies of clean sheets, soap and towels, and rubber gloves, etc., for the use of the doctors conducting post mortem examinations.

The mortuary has been in use on 10 occasions during the year. The details are as follows.

Cause of death	Number
Natural causes	4
Suicide	2
Accidental death	1
Misadventure	3

DISINFESTATION

The work of disinfestation is one of the duties allocated to the rodent operative, working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The following infestations were dealt with during the year:

Bed Bugs	11
Cockroaches	37
Ants	17
Beetles	5
Wood worms	19
Crickets	9
Hornets	3
Silver Fish	4
Wasps	1
Bluebottles	1

All infestations were successfully treated with Zaldecide or Gam-mexane.

RODENT CONTROL

Work in this connection has continued steadily throughout the year. A large proportion of the rodent operative's time was taken up on investigation and inspection. All premises were treated in accordance with the Ministry's methods.

Two maintenance treatments of the district sewers were carried out during the year and only in isolated cases were takes recorded.

Generally speaking, the conditions prevailing throughout the district may be regarded as being satisfactory.

No. of Infestations Treated								
Type of Premises					Rats		Mice	No. of initial visits
					Major	Minor		
Business Premises	....	....	....	....	1	11	22	54
Agricultural	....	....	....	....	—	4	—	47
Private dwellings	....	....	....	....	—	58	48	134
Local Authority premises (including Sewage Works, Tip, Depots, etc.)					3	18	2	26
Totals					4	91	72	261

Practically all the work was carried out by arrangement with the owners or occupiers and in only two cases was it necessary to resort to the serving of notices. No statutory action was necessary.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936

The number of licences to store petroleum spirit granted during the year was 29. Two new licences were issued and the remaining 27 were renewals. The licences issued were as follows:

Not exceeding 100 gallons	....	....	3
Exceeding 100 and not exceeding 500 gallons	....	....	17
Exceeding 500 and not exceeding 1000 gallons	....	....	5
Exceeding 1000 and not exceeding 5000 gallons	....	....	1
Exceeding 50,000 gallons	....	....	3

One licence to store 4 tons of Carbide of Calcium was issued.

The income from the licences was £28 15s. 0d.

Visits of inspection were made and all the regulations were found to be duly observed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

I have pleasure in again reporting that the work of the Cleansing Service has been maintained at a high level of efficiency throughout the year. This efficiency may best be judged by the fact that the general public now take the weekly removal of household refuse as a matter of course and are quite concerned if the collectors are a few hours late on the round. In order to maintain the expected standard, more time has had to be devoted to the administration side of the service. From this angle the year has been most difficult. Holidays, sickness, change over of refuse tips, the filling in of "The Dell," new properties, and increased salvage collection have all added their quota to the difficulties which had to be overcome. It was during the most troublesome period that the informal meetings with the workmen proved to be of inestimable value. Those meetings, I am sure, maintained the "goodwill" between the workmen and the staff of the department without which no service can function smoothly and efficiently.

The land adjoining the Council's Sewage works was completely "tipped up" during the year and so, for the first time, a site had to be found away from the precincts of these works. The new site in the Glaze valley was stripped of top soil and fenced in ready for tipping to commence in August, 1953. Within a few weeks of opening the new tip the access road was completely blocked owing to the road extension in Lords Street, Cadishead, and the disposal of refuse was transferred to Princes Park, Irlam.

The filling in of "The Dell" adjoining the main walk in the park was carried out without any adverse reports. It was, however, a costly operation on account of the extra sealing and soiling which was required in order to prevent any nuisance and to discourage children from disturbing the tip face. The operation took ten weeks to complete and 2,500 cubic yards of refuse was tipped.

The replacement scheme for dustbins has now become an accepted part of the service and is greatly appreciated by the householders and also the refuse collection personnel. During the year 339 bins were provided under the scheme.

The amount of salvage collected was most encouraging. At the beginning of the year the price for waste paper was further reduced from £7 10s. per ton to £6 10s. per ton, and the service was faced with the problem of how to keep up the income in spite of this reduction. A meeting was held with the workmen and it was decided to go all out for an increased tonnage of waste paper. The following figures show how well that effort was maintained throughout the year: the average monthly collection was raised from 15 tons, a figure which won us a prize in the National Competition in 1951, to over 17 tons per month. There was a slight decrease in the weight of textiles and metal collected. A total of over 35,000 bottles and jars were salvaged and sold during the year.

CLEANSING COSTS AND STATISTICS

Total weight of household refuse collected:

Disposed of by controlled tipping	....	....	5,887 tons
Population	....	....	14,890
Weight per 1,000 population	....	....	395.4 tons
Number of houses and premises	....	....	4,648
Approximate number of bins emptied each cycle	....	....	4,766
Average length of haul	....	....	1½—2 mls.

Net expenditure:

(a) Collection	....	....	£6,670
(b) Disposal	....	....	£1,700
(c) Dustbins	....	....	£ 433
(d) Salvage	....	....	£1,212
			<hr/>
			£10,015
Less Salvage income	....	....	£1,684
Less Sale of Refuse			
Disposal Plant	....	....	£ 125
			<hr/>
			£8,206

Net cost per ton:

(a) Collection	....	....	£1 2 8
(b) *Disposal	....	....	5 9
			<hr/>
			£1 8 5

Net cost per 1,000 population:

(a) Collection	....	....	£447 19 0
(b) *Disposal	....	....	£114 3 5
			<hr/>
			£562 2 5

**Includes preparation of new tip, removal of top soil and fencing.*

Note: The above figures relate to the financial year 1953-1954.

SALVAGE FIGURES

The details of material collected and sold during the year ended 31st December, 1953 are as follows:

				T.	e.	q.		£	s.	d.
Paper	....	....	....	205	6	1	....	1449	3	8
Textiles	....	....	....	8	10	0	....	132	19	0
Metals	....	....	....	5	8	2	..	18	3	6
Bottles, jars, etc.	....	....	....	14	6	1		78	13	0
				<hr/>				<hr/>		
Totals	....			233	11	0	....	1678	19	2
				<hr/>				<hr/>		

The following are the figures for 1953 as compared with 1951 and 1952:

	1951			1952			1953		
	T.	c.	q.	T.	c.	q.	T.	c.	q.
Paper	186	13	3	175	10	3	205	6	1
Textiles	14	3	3	11	16	0	8	10	0
Metals	12	17	0	12	13	2	5	8	2
Bottles, jars	1,380	doz.		2,578	doz.		2,920	doz.	
Gross Income	£3210	0	0	£2109	0	0	£1679	0	0

Summary of the district Salvage efforts

Year	Weight			Increased Collection Allowance	Bonus on Paper	Prize Waste Paper Contest	Value
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	£	£	£
1942	168	11	3	—	—	—	659
1943	174	10	0	—	—	—	787
1944	99	10	1	—	—	—	612
1945	83	10	0	—	—	—	468
1946	102	19	1	11	—	—	409
1947	129	15	1	15	—	—	463
1948	129	6	0	27	—	—	633
1949	191	1	0	57	—	—	979
1950	171	15	1	—	17	—	1069
1951	221	4	0	—	54	50	3106
1952	212	13	0	—	—	—	2109
1953	233	11	0	—	—	—	1679
	1918	6	3	110	71	50	12973
£13,204							

Total weight of materials recovered:

	Tons
Paper	1406
Tins	134
Glass	162
Textiles	93
Scrap metals	69
Bones	10
Miscellaneous	44
	1918

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Accumulations	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
Animals so kept	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Atmospheric pollution	....	....	....	....	....	....	103
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
Butchers shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	69
Canteens	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
Cinemas	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Civil Defence	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Council House applications	....	....	....	....	....	....	333
Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
Dwelling houses re complaints and defects	....	....	....	....	....	....	1787
Dwelling houses re overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Dwelling houses dirty or verminous	....	....	....	....	....	....	156
Dwelling houses re infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	....	59
Dwelling houses re Housing Acts....	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	109
Farms	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
Food Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	....	61
Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	401
Gypsies	....	....	....	....	....	....	125
Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	51
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	236
Licensed premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Moveable dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Mortuary	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
Offices	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Petroleum	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Public cleansing—Controlled Tip....	....	....	....	....	....	....	300
Salvage	....	....	....	....	....	....	125
Other visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	57
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Rats and mice	....	....	....	....	....	....	216
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	695
Timber licences	37
Watercourses	18
Miscellaneous	103
Total number of visits	5399



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